

INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY Ecuador

DATE DISTR. 23 MAY 1949

SUBJECT PCE Delegate to World Peace Congress

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PLACE 25X1A6a
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DATE OF IN
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25X1A2g
SUPPLEMENT TO
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1. The decision on the part of the Partido Comunista del Ecuador (PCE) to send Nela Martinez, foremost Ecuadorian woman Communist, to the World Peace Congress in Paris* was sudden, as the Party had announced on 4 April 1949 that there was not sufficient time to orient a delegate for the Congress, and therefore Ecuador would not be represented. In confidence, however, PCE leaders stated that the lack of funds prevented them from sending someone.
2. According to Cesar Andara, on 17 April Pedro Saad, Acting Secretary General of the Party, received from Mexico by courier instructions to send a Communist delegate to the Congress. Funds to cover the trip were also brought by the courier. As Saad was unable to go personally because of the convocation of the III Congress of the Confederacion de Trabajadores del Ecuador, he selected Nela Martinez and told her of this decision on 18 April.
3. Before her departure Martinez conferred informally with certain members of the Central Committee, lack of time preventing a more thorough briefing. She received no special instructions, but was told to present the Party's position to the appropriate Communist authority in Paris and to request a periodic supply of funds to help the PCE in its preparations for the coming world struggle. Party leaders explained to her that she would undoubtedly be contacted by someone from the Cominform who would brief her on the international situation as well as give her instructions for the PCE.
4. It was reported that Communist leaders were at first indifferent to the Peace Congress. Saad apparently received information from abroad regarding the meeting at the same time he received the money for the delegate's trip, for he later sent word to the other leaders that the Congress was very important and that "secret" Party matters would be discussed.

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Comment. [redacted] it was reported that Martinez had received a personal invitation from Madame Joliot Curie to attend the Congress. The source of that report stated that he had seen the cablegram but had not noted the name of the cable company. It has since been learned that no such cable was transmitted by All American Cable Company, and it is believed that the cable was forged in order to account for Martinez's sudden decision to attend the Congress.

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